

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 DLOS-09 NRC-05 SOE-02
AF-10 ARA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 EA-10 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NASA-01 NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02
SP-02 PA-01 DOE-15 CEQ-01 OES-09 SS-15 ICA-11
/175 W

-----068999 181026Z /16

R 180633Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2931
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
USMISSION USBERLIN
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PARGUE
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
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AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 HELSINKI 2254

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, MPOL, XG, SW, FI
SUBJECT: NORDIC NUCLEAR WEAPON FREE ZONE: FOLLOW-UP WITH THE

FINNISH MFA

REF: STATE 164075,

1. SUMMARY: WE FOUND AN EARLY OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE KEIJO KORHONEN, FINNISH MFA UNDER SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, WITH THE U.S. COMMENTS ON THE KEKKONEN PROPOSAL AS SET OUT IN THE DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE MESSAGE (REFTEL). HE CHOSE TO OVERLOOK THE NEGATIVE ASPECTS OF THE U.S. POINTS AND LATCHED ON TO THE LINE THAT WE ARE WILLING TO DISCUSS IN DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS ANY QUESTION THAT FINLAND WOULD LIKE TO RAISE. IN LIGHT OF THIS RATHER DETERMINEDLY POSITIVE TONE, WE TOOK HIM OVER THE POINTS TWICE, BUT THE FINNS CLEARLY ARE EMPHASIZING THE POSITIVE AND APPARENTLY INTEND TO PURSUE THEIR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE OTHER NORDICS. OUR NORDIC COLLEAGUES HERE TELL US THEIR GOVERNMENTS HAVE TOLD THE FINNS THEIR NEGATIVE VIEWS ON THE KEKKONEN PROPOSAL HAVE NOT CHANGED, BUT IF THE FINNS AREN'T LISTENING, OR OTHERS ARE BEING SO POLITE THE MESSAGE DOESN'T GET THROUGH, THEY MAY STILL ATTEMPT TO CARRY THE PROPOSAL BEYOND BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. I TOOK THE OCCASION OF MFA UNDER SECRETARY KORHONEN'S IMPENDING DEPARTURE ON ANNUAL LEAVE FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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JULY AND THE PROSPECT OF MY OWN EXTENDED TDY IN WASHINGTON BEGINNING THE END OF THE MONTH TO CALL ON HIM TO DELIVER THE USG COMMENTS ON THE KEKKONEN PROPOSAL. KORHONEN ASKED IF MY CALL WAS INSTRUCTED. I TOLD HIM THE TIMING WAS MY OWN CHOICE RESULTING FROM THE PROSPECT OF BEING GONE FROM HELSINKI FOR SOME TIME, BUT THAT THE VIEWS WERE THOSE OF THE USG AFTER ITS ANALYSIS OF THE KEKKONEN PROPOSAL, AS WE KNOW IT AT THIS JUNCTURE. I ADDED THAT THE PROPOSAL IS ONE TO WHICH THE NORDICS AND THE USSR MUST RESPOND IN THE FIRST INSTANCE. UNTIL THERE IS A NORDIC PROPOSAL FOR A NORDIC NUCLEAR WEAPON FREE ZONE, AND NOT JUST A FINNISH PROPOSAL, OUR VIEWS, OF COURSE, ARE SOMEWHAT SHORT OF DEFINITIVE, AND PROPERLY SO.

3. WITH THAT I TOOK THE COMMENTS FROM THE TOP TO MAKE SURE THERE IS NO MISUNDERSTANDING, BEGINNING WITH WHAT KORHONEN KNEW OF OUR VIEWS AS EXPRESSED TO HIM ON JUNE 1 IN WASHINGTON, AND PROCEEDING THROUGH THE U.S. POSITION ON NWFZ'S, NEGATIVE SECURITY GUARANTEES, AND ON FINLAND'S PROPOSED NORDIC NWFZ (ON

THE LATTER, STICKING WITH ONLY PARAGRAPH 11 OF THE DEPARTMENT'S MESSAGE. I DID NOT EXPRESS THE GLOVES-OFF VIEW THAT WE COULD NOT SUPPORT A NORDIC NWFZ PROPOSAL AND WOULD OPPOSE IT IF MOMENTUM BUILT UP AROUND IT.) I SPECIFICALLY TOLD HIM WE DO NOT FIND THE FINNISH PROPOSAL A REASONABLE OR PROMISING BASIS FOR NEGOTIATION. I ENDED WITH THE STATEMENT THAT WHILE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SPECIFIC USG CONTACT ON THIS SUBJECT IS NOT NECESSARY, DISCUSSIONS COULD BE CONTINUED IN DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS.

4. KORHONEN THANKED ME FOR THE PRESENTATION, WHICH HE SAID HE FOUND POSITIVE, NOTING THAT, IN HIS VIEW --THE FINNISH PROPOSAL MEETS THE TEST OF THE STATED
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U.S. POSITION ON NWFZ'S;
--THE U.S. POSITION ON NEGATIVE SECURITY GUARANTEES IS KNOWN TO FINLAND AND NEED NOT BE AN OBSTACLE;
--FINLAND DOES NOT CONSIDER THE PROPOSALS UNBALANCED OR "ANT-AMERICAN" (HIS PHRASE, WHICH HE SAID SOME U.S. OFFICIALS HAVE USED);
--THE PROPOSAL WOULD NOT UPSET EXISTING NORDIC SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS; AND
--IT WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROPOSAL TO CONTINUE THE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE USG.

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AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 HELSINKI 2254

5. SOMEWHAT STARTLED BY THE VIEW THAT WHAT I HAD SAID WAS POSITIVE, I REPEATED TWO POINTS TO MAKE SURE THAT KORHONEN HAD HEARD THEM; EXPRESSLY, THAT IT DOES NOT APPEAR TO US THAT THE NORDIC AREA IS COMPATIBLE WITH THE CONCEPT OF A FORMAL NWFZ NOR IS IT CLEAR THAT ALL OF THE STATES CONCERNED ARE INTERESTED IN PURSUING THE FINNISH PROPOSAL AND THAT WE DO NOT FIND THE PROPOSAL A REASONABLE OR PROMISING BASIS FOR NEGOTIATION.

6. KORHONEN DESCRIBED BRIEFLY THE FINNISH APPROACH IN ITS BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS. HE SAID THE FINNS ARE TRYING TO FIND OUT WHAT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE AND WHAT ISN'T. THE FINNS ARE INTERESTED IN EXPLORING HOW THE OTHER NORDICS VIEW A POSSIBLE NWFZ, QUESTIONS OF DEFINITIONS, AREA COVERED, ETC., HE SAID, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT FINLAND HAD SPECIFICALLY ASKED SWEDEN FOR MORE INFORMATION CONCERNING AN

EARLIER SWEDISH "SAFETY ZONE" IDEA, ACCORDING TO WHICH IF NUCLEAR POWERS WERE TO SUPPORT AN AGREEMENT ON A NORDIC NWFZ, THEN NONSTRATEGIC NUCLEAR ARMS POSITIONED IN LAND AND SEA AREAS NEIGHBORING THE ZONE AND CAPABLE OF BEING USED AGAINST TARGETS IN THE ZONE SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN IN CONNECTION WITH A NWFZ AGREEMENT. KORHONEN SAID THAT THUS FAR HE HAS HAD BILATERAL CONVERSATIONS WITH NORWAY AND SWEDEN. HE SAID HE EXPECTS TO HAVE TALKS LATER WITH DENMARK AND THE SOVIET UNION. KORHONEN CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT HE APPRECIATED THE FRANK EXPRESSION OF U.S. CONFIDENTIAL

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VIEWS AND IS PLEASED THAT THERE WILL BE FURTHER OPPORTUNITIES TO DISCUSS THE MATTER AGAIN WITH THE UNITED STATES IN DUE COURSE.

7. COMMENT: KORHONEN AND THE FINNS ARE CLEARLY EMPHASIZING THE POSITIVE IN THEIR APPROACH TO THEIR DISCUSSIONS OF THE KKKONEN PLAN. KORHONEN AT NO TIME ALLUDED TO ANY DIFFICULTIES OR NEGATIVE REACTION IN HIS DISCUSSIONS IN NORWAY AND SWEDEN. HE ALSO SEEMED TO MINIMIZE THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE NEGATIVE ASPECTS OF THE USG COMMENTS I PRESENTED, PREFERRING TO SEIZE ON THE POINTS THAT THE U.S. COMMENTS APPROPRIATELY ARE NOT DEFINITIVE AND FINAL AS NO NORDIC PROPOSAL IS BEFORE US FOR DISCUSSION AND THAT THE USG IS PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE MATTER AGAIN WITH THE FINNS IN NORMAL DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS IF REQUESTED.

8. WE BELIEVE IT HAS BEEN VERY USEFUL TO INDICATE CLEARLY TO THE FINNS WHAT THE U.S. VIEWS AND COMMENTS ARE ON THE FINNISH PROPOSAL. WE VERY MUCH APPRECIATE THE EXCELLENT GUIDANCE RECEIVED FROM WASHINGTON FOR THIS PURPOSE. WE AGREE IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE USG NOT GET OUT IN FRONT IN OPPOSING THE FINNISH PROPOSALS; WE DO NOT THINK, DESPITE THE FRANK PRESENTATION OF USG COMMENTS, THAT THE FINNS WILL CONSIDER THE USG IS OUT IN FRONT. HOWEVER, IF THE OTHER NORDICS IN THEIR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE FINNS ARE TOO POLITE, THE FINNS MAY KEEP RUNNING WITH THIS PROPOSAL AND CONCLUDE THAT AS LONG AS NO ONE IS EXPLICITLY OPPOSING IT, AS A CONCEPT AND AS A SPECIFIC PROPOSAL, THEY HAVE A BASIS TO TRY TO PUSH IT BEYOND BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS. SO FAR THAT DOESN'T SEEM TO US TO BE THE CASE AND THE CONSULTATIONS WITH DENMARK AND THE USSR COULD COMPLETE THE LIFE CYCLE OF THIS PARTICULAR CONFIDENTIAL

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REVIVAL OF THE OLD PROPOSAL.

RIDGWAY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NUCLEAR FREE ZONES, NUCLEAR WEAPONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Event:
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Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780749/aaaabpbf.tel
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: NORDIC NUCLEAR WEAPON FREE ZONE: FOLLOW-UP WITH THE FINNISH MFA
TAGS: PARM, MPOL, XG, SW, FI
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